Winship Cancer Institute is pleased to release the Winter 2022 Request for Pilot Grant Proposals for its Winship Invest$ pilot project program. Winship Invest$ is a peer-reviewed program that provides pilot funding for novel, innovative cancer research projects. This program enables Winship investigators to obtain preliminary data and results for publication and for subsequent peer-reviewed funding applications. Winship Invest$ has two funding opportunities every year. Successful applications are supported by philanthropic contributions to Winship and by developmental funds from the Winship’s NCI Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG).

Proposals with a budget of up to $50,000 for one year may be considered for Winship Invest$ (unless otherwise stated for specific research domains). Investigators may submit only one proposal to the Winship Invest$ Request for Pilot Grant Proposals (RFP) per funding cycle. The current Winship Invest$ RFP seeks applications in the following research domains that align with the Winship vision and strategic plan:

**Winship Invest$ Winter 2022 Research Domains:**

1. **Precision Immunotherapy** – The next generation of cancer immunotherapies are being designed based on patient tumor and immune system biology. This opportunity will support basic or translational cancer-related research projects or investigator-initiated clinical trials that focus on accelerating progress in treating cancers with precision immunotherapy approaches. Projects may utilize but are not limited to strategies such as immune profiling, immune monitoring, immune/genomic profiling and/or immunotherapy biomarkers and may address new strategies to optimize immunotherapy response rate or resistance. Projects that utilize Winship shared resources will be preferred.

2. **Addressing Cancer Disparities** – This opportunity will support research projects that focus on impacting the unique cancer needs and at-risk populations within the Winship catchment area (state of Georgia). Projects may focus on research of high incidence tumors in our state, health disparities, prevention and cancer control efforts, assessment of community needs, and implementation/dissemination of evidence-based interventions. Projects can also include basic/translational research that addresses our cancer disparities priorities in our catchment area. Projects should aim to provide a positive impact for citizens within the state of Georgia.

3. **Early Detection, Risk Reduction and Prevention** – Eligible proposals must be original and clearly describe pre-clinical, translational, clinical or population-based research projects in the field of cancer prevention or early detection. Successful research projects will aim to reduce the frequency of malignancies, either through primary prevention or secondary prevention strategies. Primary prevention strategies could include but are not limited to modifications to diet, tobacco use, physical activity, or environmental exposures. Secondary prevention strategies could include innovative techniques or technologies to reduce rates of cancer, such as immunologic, imaging, molecular techniques, screening, health trackers, artificial intelligence. Community engagement in project aims to maximize impact preferred.

4. **Breast Cancer Research** – Thanks to generous donations from the Glenn Family Breast Center, we are pleased to solicit proposals for breast cancer-specific translational research from both preclinical research scientists AND clinical investigators. Awards under this opportunity are limited to this RFP cycle only. This opportunity aims to support:
   - Clinical studies (therapeutic or non-therapeutic) which prospectively enroll patients or utilize samples/data collected from patients with breast cancer. Up to three awards at $50,000 each may be funded. Submitted projects that leverage the strengths and expertise of investigators from across two or more Winship research programs will be prioritized. Proposals must submit one integrated budget. Future directions from the proposed study should be described. Junior faculty are strongly encouraged to apply. Research should focus on (but need not be limited to) any of the following:
     - Prevention
     - Breast Cancer Disparities
     - Therapeutic Opportunities with Immunotherapy
Symptom Management
Improving Breast Cancer Outcome and Reducing Risk of Recurrence
Improving Treatment Efficacy, including Studies in Pharmacogenomics

- Preclinical studies which prospectively utilize translationally minded in vitro studies, tissue samples collected from patients with breast cancer, or drug delivery and animal-based disease models. Up to three awards at $50,000 each may be funded. Submitted projects that leverage the strengths and expertise of investigators from across two or more Winship research programs will be prioritized. Proposals must submit one integrated budget. Future directions from the proposed study should be described. Junior faculty are strongly encouraged to apply. Research should focus on (but need not be limited to) any of the following:
  - Therapeutic Opportunities with Cellular Signaling
  - Immune Therapy Pathways and Response
  - Prognostic & Predictive Biomarker Development, including Genomics
  - Breast Cancer Carcinogenesis and Development
  - Breast Cancer Treatment, Resistance, and Progression Modeling

Winship Invest$ Eligibility Criteria and Application Requirements:
1. Pilot projects will be awarded to active Winship members. To maintain active membership status, the following criteria must be met:
   a. Attendance of at least 50% of published meetings of the research program to which s/he belongs;
   b. Maintenance of good financial standing with Winship (no pilot projects in deficit);
   c. Acknowledgement of the Winship Cancer Center Support Grant (CCSG) on all publications resulting from utilization of services provided by one or more Winship Shared Resources;
   d. Acknowledgement of the appropriate pilot funding source on all publications resulting from work supported by the Winship Invest$ Program.
2. Winship members may receive only one pilot project award in a given year and may not submit more than one proposal through any RFP.
3. Salary support for the principal investigator is not allowed except for junior faculty at the rank of Assistant Professor and below.
4. All proposals must include a clear plan for subsequent extramural grant submissions as a result of the work proposed, and a one-year timeline based on specific aims.
5. Data Management – Proposals must include a plan to maintain research data in Redcap or other secure data management system (if relevant) with quality control and stored on the Emory system with back-up and potential for data sharing. Consultation for data sharing plans are recommended with the Winship Data and Technology Applications (DATA) Shared Resource. (https://winshipcancer.emory.edu/research/shared-resources/winship-data-and-technology-applications.html)
6. Community Outreach and Engagement Statement – Applications must include a community outreach and engagement statement justifying how proposed research will address and help reduce the cancer burden in Winship’s catchment area (state of Georgia), or state how proposals will disseminate evidence-based interventions to communities in Georgia or beyond. Statements will scored as an official review criteria of the Winship Invest$ program. Investigators should highlight how their research aligns with catchment area priorities when appropriate. Questions about catchment area-relevant research can be directed to Theresa W. Gillespie, PhD (tgilles@emory.edu), Associate Director for Community Outreach and Engagement (COE).
7. Clinical Research – Proposals can only be submitted by MDs, MD/PhDs, or RN/PhDs. All clinical research awardees are expected to follow clinical research guidelines set by Emory IRB, Winship Clinical Trials SOPs and the Winship Protocol Review and Monitoring Committee and must satisfy clinical research training requirements. Proposals must include the following:
   a. A Human Subjects Research document
   b. Winship PRMC Application
   c. Clinical Protocol and Informed Consent Form
   d. A plan to maintain clinical research data in Oncore or with the support of the Winship DATA shared resource
8. Vertebrate Animals Research - Proposals that include in vivo studies must include a section addressing Vertebrate Animals research and include either a draft to be submitted or IACUC-approved protocol).
9. Letter of Intent: A Letter of Intent must be submitted and approved by Winship to advance a proposal to full application status. This document must identify the PI, all potential co-investigators and/or collaborators on the project, the research program of the applicant, the research domain for which the project is to be considered, a proposed title and a brief description of the proposed research project. Letters of Intent should be no longer than two
pages and should be uploaded as a single document to https://intranet.winship.emory.edu/pilotgrant no later than 11:59 pm on Friday, March 4, 2022. Please direct any questions you have regarding this funding opportunity to winshipgrants@emory.edu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Cycle II Timeline:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Date:</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RFP Announcement:</td>
<td>Wednesday, February 9, 2022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letter of Intent Receipt Date:</td>
<td>Friday, March 4, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application Receipt Date:</td>
<td>Friday, April 22, 2022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anticipated Start Date:</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 1, 2022</td>
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